

To the Regulatory Reform Committee members:

I would like to thank the members of the committee for their interest in this legislation. The sports medicine community has been working on a state by state basis to address the concerns of team physicians. In nearly 20 states similar legislation has already passed. As Michigan's state representative to the American Orthopedic Sports Medicine Society, I am trying to address the concerns of team physicians; especially those traveling out of state with their designated teams. This includes physicians who care for collegiate and professional teams but also includes many of us who care for high schools, national teams and clubs, and elite athletes at many levels. As an orthopedic surgeon, who personally cares for professional, collegiate and high school teams, I find myself making medical decisions on both the sidelines and in training rooms, often while traveling. Team physicians from states outside Michigan find themselves in similar situations. The goal of this legislation is not to provide full licensure and hospital privileges to traveling team physicians but to grant them limited ability to care for their teams while visiting Michigan. Every team physician is licensed in their primary state of practice and has passed a national board to practice medicine. We often find ourselves making decisions for the well-being of the athlete but due to an idiosyncrasy we may find ourselves practicing medicine without a license in the state where the athletic event is occurring. Team physicians have always had an outstanding relationship with each other and always ask for help in the event that hospital or surgical care is required if we are away from our "home" state. Those emergencies would always require the care of a state licensed physician. We are looking to allow the physician whose team has made their designee to provide care for his/her team while visiting our state. I am sure the committee can understand that we remain committed to the health and well-being of the team and its affiliates. I hope you will allow this legislation to move forward.

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